

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2699

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP: A CDU POINT OF VIEW

1. AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE HAMBURG CDU LANDESVORSTAND ON NOV. 15, BUNDESTAG DEPUTY WALTHER LEISLER KIEP SPOKE EXTERMPORANEOUSLY FOR HALF AN HOUR ABOUT HIS PARTY'S VIEWS OF THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. KIEP SCATHINGLY COMPARED FRG SUPPORT OF THE U.S. DURING THE 1962 CUBA MISSILE CRISIS WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF DISASSOCIATION FROM THE U.S. DURING WHAT KIEP DECLARED TO BE A COMPARABLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. DEPLORING THE ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG, KIEP RHETORICALLY QUESTIONED WHETHER THE AMERICANS REALIZE BY NOW WHICH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN GERMANY CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO SUPPORT, ALBEIT NOT ALWAYS UNCRITICALLY, THE POLICIES OF THE U.S. IN MATTERS RELATED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

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2. KIEP DEPRECIATED THE VIEW OF ONE OF THE LUNCHEON GUESTS WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE RECENT STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FAULT OF THE AMERICANS FAILING TO KEEP THEIR EUROPEAN ALLIES INFORMED ABOUT ITS INTENTION OF SUPPORTING THE ISRAELIS WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES. THIS DECISION, HE SAID, WAS UNDOUBTEDLY HASTENED BY THE AMERICAN ESTIMATE OF A REAL DANGER OF THE SOVIETS SENDING TROUPS INTO THE MIDDLE EAST. KIEP SAID THAT GERMANY AND ITS NATO PARTNERS COULD NOT CRITICIZE THE U.S. FOR GOING ON A FIRST-STAGE ALERT IN SUCH A SITUATION. INDEED, HE ADDED, THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS HAD RESPONDED SO RAPIDLY TO A POSSIBLE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT MIGHT, HE SAID, HAVE LED TO THE CRISIS' ABATEMENT.

3. KIEP'S REMARKS WERE WELL-RECEIVED BY EVERYONE PRESENT. BESIDES HIMSELF, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG WHO ATTENDED THE LUNCHEON WERE ERIK BLUMENFELD, DIETRICH ROLLMANN AND OLAF VON WRANGEL. BLUMENFELD, WHO WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CDU PARTEITAG DURING ITS NOV. 18-20 MEETING IN HAMBURG, TOLD ME FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON THAT HE ANTICIPATES TWO VOLATILE ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED AT THE SESSIONS -- MITBESTIMMUNG (INDUSTRIAL CO-DETERMINATION) AND GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. THE LATTER, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH NOT FORMALLY ON THE AGENDA, MAY ATTRACT THE LARGEST HEADLINES. BROGAN

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